

*Around the World, continued from page one*

ment is trying to get hotels, bars and restaurants to put in their own policies. In the Netherlands, 30% of the adults are smokers – a higher rate than all other European Union countries, except Spain, Greece and Germany. Their goal is to reduce the smoking rate by 5% over the next three years.

Norway passed a national ban on smoking in restaurants,

## Tobacco Firm Allegedly Knew Risks in '80s

Secret research conducted by cigarette company Philip Morris in the 1980s showed that secondhand smoke was highly toxic, yet the company suppressed the finding during the next two decades, according to an online article being published by *The Lancet*, a British medical journal. The publication comes as the U.S. Justice Department pursues a \$280 million fraud case against Philip Morris and five other tobacco companies in federal court in Washington, D.C. The lawsuit, which went to trial in September 2004, is the largest civil racketeering case in history.

Philip Morris attorney John Wunderli called the claims detailed in the *Lancet* article "distorted and misleading" and said similar allegations had "shown up in lawsuits against the company for years that we've successfully defended against." But several experts said the *Lancet* article reveals for the first time that Philip Morris' research documented health risks from second-hand smoke well before the public health community raised an alarm.

When the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Surgeon General reported in the mid-1990s that second-hand smoke could cause cancer, Philip Morris and other tobacco companies disputed that charge. As recently as April 2002, Philip Morris rejected the claim that second-hand smoke causes disease.

"Even as Philip Morris claimed there was no evidence that secondhand smoke was harmful, its own secret laboratory had conducted literally hundreds of previously undisclosed studies that showed that secondhand smoke was potentially even more harmful than mainstream smoke," said Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Secondhand smoke is emitted by cigarettes and smokers, and it hangs

bars and cafes this year. The ban is to protect workers and to de-normalize smoking as a social pastime. A package of cigarettes in Norway costs over \$6.00. Despite this cost, they still have a high smoking rate.

Tanzania banned smoking in many public places in 2003.

United Kingdom including England, Scotland and Wales is working toward a smokefree public places law.

in the air hours after cigarettes have been extinguished. Public health officials estimate that second-hand smoke contributes to 35,000 to 60,000 deaths a year.

Philip Morris' research on second-hand smoke was conducted at the Institut fur Industrielle und Biologische Forschung GmbH, or INBIFO, a research facility in Germany. Little information about research done at the facility has emerged until the *Lancet* article.

The European authors of the *Lancet* article pieced together their article from thousands of documents released under legal settlements reached with the tobacco industry, and other materials. All three authors are advocates for tobacco control.

The authors concluded INBIFO produced almost 800 reports dealing with secondhand smoke between 1981 and 1989. All were based on studies conducted on animals. Most of the important results appear never to have been published, the authors said.

One study looked at the effects on rats of sidestream smoke released by burning cigarettes. It found that secondhand smoke caused significant damage to cells and appeared to be three times more toxic than "mainstream" smoke, which is what smokers breathe in and out. "Sidestream smoke ... showed a higher toxicity in terms of body weight development, food consumptions, rectal temperature and respiratory frequency" as well as "more advanced lesions" and cellular damage, according to a write-up of results. The findings were never published.

Wunderli said Philip Morris would not comment on the scientific debate over secondhand smoke and would "defer to public health authorities and the conclusions they have reached." Whatever evidence INBIFO turned up



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Newsletter of the Rhode Island Department of Health Tobacco Control Program • December 2004  
[www.health.r.i.gov/disease/tobacco/home.htm](http://www.health.r.i.gov/disease/tobacco/home.htm) ——— Contact Carol Hall-Walker (401) 222-2589

## The OYE Troop is now an army!!!!



It's official. The OYE Troop has finally joined forces with Progreso Latino's youth group, The Media HEDZ. Like OYE, The Media HEDZ is a youth group that focuses on training youth to think as leaders and express their views using media as their artform.

The majority of these kids are already prepared to work as a production team through their work with Progreso Latino's Summer Camp. They know how to set up the angles, mic their subjects and cover

good stories for OYE's TV show, Divided By Seven. There is also a crew of photographers and reporters that actually accompanies OYE members to events. The photographers are able to develop their own black & white

## Around the World

*In case you've been wondering what's going on around the globe with smoking restrictions, here's a brief summary obtained from the BBC News web site.*

**Australia** is now almost entirely smokefree and recently some of the most famous beaches have gone smokefree.

**Bhutan** a remote Himalayan kingdom is thought to be the first country to introduce a total ban on tobacco sales. The government eventually wants Bhutan to be a tobacco free nation.

**Canada** has some of the lowest smoking levels in the world, with only 21% of Canadians over the age of 15 reporting that they smoked in 2002. Public health experts say the decline has been driven by tough anti-smoking measures. In addition to bans on smoking in workplaces and many public

# Smokefree ZONE

pictures in a dark-room while reporters prepare articles for their magazine, Writers Not Fighters. Each of the OYE

members is involved in one of the mediums and serves as a youth leader within that specific group.

Hoping to capitalize on the old-strength in numbers-strategy, OYE has enlisted the help of this ambitious youth group that rolls at least 25 deep. The union now allows OYE to be in more places at once, spreading their mes-

sage and urging anyone - young and old- to pay more attention to the health and economic affects of Tobacco products in our communities. Stay tuned!!!!

places, cigarette packages bear graphic images of the damage caused by smoking.

**Ireland** imposed strict anti-smoking legislation this year banning smoking in pubs, restaurants and other enclosed workplaces.

**Montenegro**, the union of Montenegro and Serbia has one of the highest rates of smoking in Europe at 40%. In August 2004, the Montenegrin part of the union introduced a sweeping ban on smoking in public places, in the hope of overturning an established culture of smoking in offices, restaurants, bars and on buses. Under the new rules, due to take effect in early 2005, tobacco advertising and the portrayal of smoking on television will also be banned.

**The Netherlands** instituted a crackdown on smoking this year and banned cigarettes from many public places including train stations, trains and offices. The govern-

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For more information on quitting smoking, call  
**1-800-TRY-10-STOP**  
 (1-800-879-8678), or visit  
<http://www.trytostop.org>

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# WORD Takes to the Streets



On Saturday, November 20th at the WORD Center on Broad Street, youth from throughout the state remembered loved ones who lost their lives to tobacco in dance, song and by posting their photos on a memorial wall followed by a moment of silence and the release of doves.

Youth and adults demonstrated their support of people who continue to be addicted to nicotine by chanting, "1-800-Try-To-Stop; they can help you on the spot," and "Two, four, six, eight – you can quit, it's not too late," as they walked through the streets of

Providence to the State House. Many people beeped their horns in support of the walk and gave the high five sign. There were a few disgruntled smokers who hissed and kept smoking as the walkers passed them, but as one youth put it, "maybe this will help them at least think about quitting and know where to call."

Once at the State House, several quitters gave testimony as to how the free quit smoking services helped them and advocated for continued funding for these services. After the rally, everyone gathered to

## N-O-T Facilitator Training Held

A training of facilitators for the American Lung Association's premier adolescent tobacco cessation program Not On Tobacco, or N-O-T for short, was held on October 26th and 27th at the Lung Association offices in Providence. The training sessions were led by Bunny Miller of Portsmouth with assistance from Molly Clark of the Lung Association. Nine individuals completed the course and are now certified to deliver

the N-O-T program in school or community settings. The new N-O-T facilitators are Davida Cotman-El of the Urban League of RI; Mahamadou Diakite, a volunteer with the Urban League; Bobbi Houllahan of South

Providence Neighborhood Ministries; Fred Ordonez and Jackie Torres of Progreso Latino; Stephanie Puchner of the Woonsocket Task Force on Substance Abuse, Kate Rawstron, Student Assistance Counselor for



film a new television spot to announce the implementation of the Smokefree Public Place and Workplace Law - a fitting end to the day.

Portsmouth High School; Maria Sorensen, Student Assistance Counselor for Classical High School; Jamie Spears of the Rhode Island Indian Council.

The next 2-day training for N-O-T will be held in January or February. Anyone interested in becoming a N-O-T facilitator should contact Molly Clark at 421-6487.

# Spotlight on the Worksite Wellness Council

The Worksite Wellness Council (WWC) reaches employers and employees all over the state with a variety of important health promotion messages. The WWC is led by Edna Poulin and Deb Foley, both with extensive business experience. Together they have provided excellent leadership to more than 140 companies in Rhode Island on such issues as improving smoking policies, increasing physical activity, improving eating habits and a host of other health issues. Twenty-four of the 140 companies have earned Well Workplace awards.

WWC has recently been working with 37 companies, with 27,000 employees collectively, providing technical

## Around Rhode Island

### Woonsocket Task Force Kicks Some Ash!

The Woonsocket Task Force on Substance Abuse celebrated the Great American Smokeout by sponsoring an ashtray drop-off program. Donations of clean ashtrays from individuals and restaurants were accepted at city hall on November 18th and transformed into an artistic display - an "ash tree" representing healthier lives without tobacco. A total of 73 ashtrays were collected. The Task Force is planning to repeat the program in early spring, following the implementation of the March 1st smokefree workplace legislation. Special thanks to all who participated!



## Around the Country

### Minnesota Likely to Become Nation's 8th Smokefree Workplace State

*Governor and Majority Leader Support Smokefree Workplace Law*

Minnesota is likely to become the nation's eighth smoke-free workplace state, joining California, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

"The bottom line is, I'm prepared and will sign a smoke-free workplace bill if it reaches my desk," Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty said after a recent meeting with Democratic Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson, who also supports such a law.

Minnesota has been unable to pass smokefree workplace legislation for the last few years, but this month voters ousted Lynda Boudreau, chairwoman of a key committee opposing such legislation, along with 12 others.

A recent Star Tribune survey found significant numbers

assistance on going smokefree, promoting smokefree policies, enforcement and quitting. The American Lung Association, American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society have joined in these efforts. Coordinating treatment for and with employers, the WWC reports that among 18 companies, 96 of their employees have quit.

Rhode Island is striving to become the first Well State in the nation and we encourage Edna and Deb to keep working toward that goal. The Department of Health is proud to be a partner and to be able to fund this initiative.

## Cessation Success for the Great American Smokeout! Or as we like to call it "El Gran Dia de No Fumar"

Progreso Latino held its Great American Smokeout event on Friday Nov 19th, from 1pm to 6pm, at the Blackstone Valley Visitors Center in downtown Pawtucket. The event included Ya No Fumo's tobacco treatment specialist Jackie Torres providing initial consultation to new clients along with carbon monoxide monitoring. Brown medical students administered blood pressure tests. Additionally, OYE's video work was shown in the theater inside the center, and Progreso's seniors group held their annual Christmas Bazaar.

The day was a great success, with 11 adult's having blood pressure checked, 12 kids viewing of OYE's anti-tobacco videos, 15 adult's carbon monoxide levels checked, and 19 adults joined Ya No Fumo. That's correct; in one day 19 people joined RI's premier smoking cessation program, and are on their way to being smoke free thanks to this event. Fred Ordonez, Progreso's CTC coordinator, attributes the day's success to extensive planning before the event, promotion of the event through paid media and radio and newspaper announcements, and the collaboration among all the groups involved.

of lawmakers in both the House and Senate who were open to a smokefree workplace law. The newspaper said it reached more than three-quarters of the Legislature's members.

Doug Meslow, a Republican from White Bear Lake, says he's ready to come forward with a bill. He said selling the idea is getting easier as people see the issue as one of workplace safety, not personal preference.

"I don't think people get fired up by saying 'Oh, gee, it's annoying to other patrons,'" Meslow said. "I don't think that's a good enough reason either. But when we talk about repeated exposure by employees, it's a health issue."

"Bar and restaurant workers should have the same right to a smokefree work environment as every other worker," says Joe Chemer, founder of BREATHE-- Bar and Restaurant Employees Advocating Together for a Healthy Environment. "No worker should have to breathe eight hours of tobacco smoke pollution to hold a job, because it causes cancer, respiratory illness, and heart disease." *Parts excerpted from Associated Press, 11/19/04*